

## "UNDER WASATCH SKIES"

*Bldg Material*

There were many varieties of building stone. Red sandstone was quarried from mountain ledges in the Lake Creek region by John Crook and William Forman. This stone was extensively used for homes and public buildings. The Stake tabernacle and County Courthouse were built of this material.

*Quarry*

John Watkins of Midway was one of the most enterprising builders in the valley. Since he was from England, much of his building had characteristic English styling. He found a bed of white sandstone, from which he and his sons cut and sawed blocks for use in homes as corners, steps, and pillars. He also made hand pressed, sun-dried brick, and operated a lime kiln. There are many beautiful examples of his work in the valley today.<sup>1</sup>

A good supply of white marble was found in the Snake Creek region; and although it proved too soft to form a basis for permanent industry, it was utilized by the pioneers for tomb stones.

Pot rock, the porous limestone which covered much of the western side of the valley, found extensive application in building homes, fences, and public buildings.

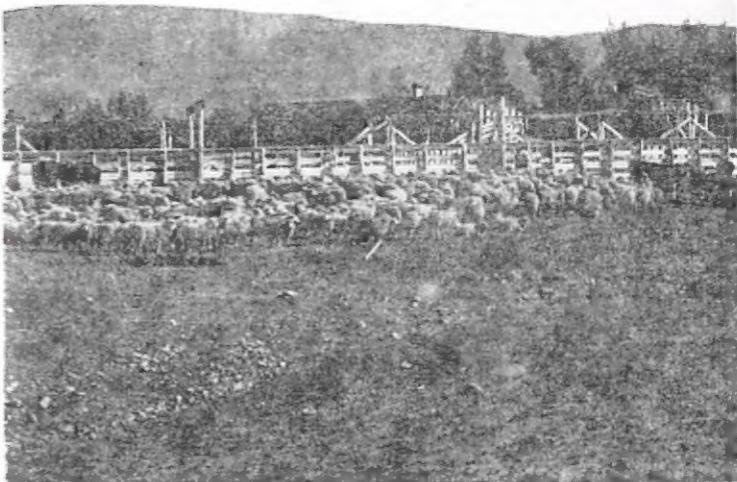
These pioneer industries served only until Wasatch County was effectively linked with larger Utah commercial centers by railroad and highway. Other industries that achieved permanent status were cattle raising, lumbering, and mining. It is these industries that contribute the greater part of the county's wealth and to which we must next turn our attention.

## SHEEP AND CATTLE

Provo Valley in 1858 was the scene of ranch building and cattle grazing. An abundance of grass grew

<sup>1</sup>Mary A. Shaer, *A Brief History of the Pioneer John Watkins*, (Heber City, 1934), p. 69.

along the river banks and made an ideal grazing situation. Indeed, men like William Wall, Aaron Daniels, William Meeks, George Bean, and others felt the valley should be



Sheep industry

set aside exclusively for cattle raising and lumbering. Most of the later settlers were interested in tilling the soil, but they too took advantage of the rich grazing lands, and nearly all had a few sheep and cattle.

Raising sheep on a large scale began with the co-operative sheep herd organized by John M. Murdock in 1861. He was born in Grasswater, Anchimleck, Ayrshire, Scotland, on December 28, 1821. Much of his early life was spent as a shepherd boy. Later, while working in the coal mines, he became a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1852

<sup>1</sup>Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 4.

was that of George Daybell in Charleston. Mr. Daybell early established a large dairy business using the pan method of raising cream for making butter. Gradually refinements were added; first ice, to make the cream rise quickly, then a horse power for churning, and finally, in 1893, a small separator. He formed a partnership that same year with Nymphas and John R. Murdock, and these began buying milk from dairy farms all over the valley.

#### PIONEER BUILDING MATERIALS

One of the great needs of the first settlers was that of substantial building materials, and there was a rich abundance to be had from the mountains surrounding the valley.

<sup>2</sup>Wasatch Warr., December 21, 1906, p. 6.



Charleston Creamery—1894

Building Materials  
Logs  
Timber  
Marble  
Granite  
Sandstone

clay pit - No of Mounds  
" " SW Field of  
" " Fredrick Giles

## *Building Materials*

### INDUSTRY

121

in the sheep industry.<sup>7</sup> Other sheepmen were Tom Clotworthy, J. S. Murdock, William and Hugh Coleman, J. W. Clyde, Smith Bros., J. B. Wilson & Sons, and J. S. McDonald & Sons.

Wasatch County for many years has been the center of livestock raising and dairy farming. Dairy farmers today ship milk to Salt Lake City, and sheep cattlemen supply high grade products to many markets.

### MINING

It was the mining interest sparked by Colonel Patrick Edward Conner and his California volunteers that led to the development of the rich mines in northern Wasatch County. Conner and his men came to Utah in

*Third.*, p. 12.



Beef cattle industry



Dairy cattle industry

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### "UNDER WASATCH SKIES"

he left Scotland for Utah to fulfill a request of Brigham Young for two Scotch shepherds and their dogs; but Brigham's sheep died before John Murdock, his wife, and two children arrived in Utah. After living in Salt Lake City eight years, he moved to Heber in 1860. In 1861 he organized the settlers' sheep into a cooperative sheep herd and took charge of them for many years. He introduced the use of sheep dip in Utah and here built the first dipping vat for treating sheep for scab.<sup>6</sup>

Commercial wool growing started in 1898 when Isaac and Milton Jacob, together with Joseph Jacob, their father, leased the cooperative sheep herd and ran it for four years. At the end of this period they bought out the interests of all who would sell and started their own herd of 3,000 sheep and thus became prominent leaders

*"Wasatch Wave," December 21, 1906, p. 9.*

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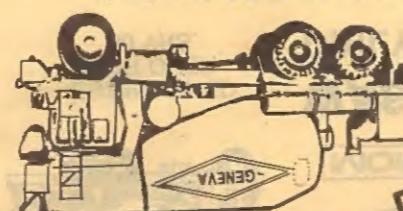
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